

a selected field type from among the plurality of defined field types; and
a selected behavior from among the plurality of defined behaviors;
creating a custom field in the custom form, the custom field having the selected field type and the selected behavior;
displaying the custom form, including the custom field, on a display device;
receiving data directed to the custom field of the displayed custom form; and
in response to receiving the data directed to the custom field, a form control procedure of the computer system performing the selected behavior for the custom field.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the selected behavior modifies the display of a field other than the custom field.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 7 including:
re-invoking the form control procedure and passing to the form control procedure an indication of the custom field to which the data is directed; and
under control of the form control procedure, performing another behavior for the custom field.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein displaying the custom form further includes, for each field of the form:

invoking the form control procedure and passing to the form control procedure an indication of the field which identifies the field; and
under control of the form control procedure, displaying the indicated field.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 7 including, under control of the form control procedure, returning an indication whether to perform the selected behavior for the custom field, wherein performing the selected behavior for the custom field is conducted when the returned indication specifies that the selected behavior is to be performed.

12. (Amended) A method in a computer system for processing data using a custom form having a field that has been customized by a user of the computer system, the method comprising:

displaying the custom form, the custom form having one or more custom fields, wherein each custom field has:

a selected custom field type that has been selected by a user from among a plurality of defined custom field types that are supported by the computer system;

and

a selected custom behavior that has been selected by the user from among a plurality of defined custom behaviors that are supported by the computer system;

receiving data directed to a particular field of the custom form;

in response to receiving the data, performing the acts of:

determining that the particular field is a custom field that has a selected custom behavior; and

in response to the act of determining, performing the selected custom behavior for the particular field; and

determining whether to perform another behavior for the particular field in response to the selected custom behavior having been performed.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the act of determining whether to perform another behavior is conducted by a form control procedure operating at the computer system.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the custom form also includes one or more default fields, each having a standard field type and a standard behavior that are not selected by the user.

sub 8C37 15. (Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising, prior to the act of performing the selected custom behavior, the act of determining whether the selected custom behavior is to be performed prior to performing said other behavior.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the act of receiving data comprises the act of receiving data entered by a person viewing the custom form.

sub 8C47 19. (Amended) A method in a computer system for processing data using a form having a custom field that has been customized by a user of the computer system and for applying a custom behavior and a standard behavior to the custom field, the method comprising:

displaying the custom form, the custom form having a custom field, wherein the custom field has:

a selected custom field type that has been selected by a user from among a plurality of defined custom field types that are supported by the computer system;

8
a selected custom behavior that has been selected by the user from among a plurality of defined custom behaviors that are supported by the computer system; and

a standard behavior, wherein the standard behavior is a behavior that is supported by the computer system and applied to the data field without the user being required to select the standard behavior;

receiving data directed to the custom field;

invoking a form control procedure operating at the computer system;

passing information identifying the custom field to the form control procedure;

receiving an indication from the form control procedure to perform the standard behavior for the field;

performing the standard behavior for the custom field;

re-invoking the form control procedure; and

using the form control procedure, performing the selected custom behavior for the custom field.

9
21. (Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising accessing a form data structure that includes a definition of each field of the custom form.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising transmitting the form data structure using an electronic mail system, such that the custom form can be displayed on another computer system.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising, when invoking the form control procedure, indicating to the form control procedure an event that is associated with receiving the data directed to the custom field.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the event is the display of the custom form.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the event is input of data into the custom field.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the event is input of data into another field of the custom form.

29. (Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer system to perform a method for processing data using a custom form having a field that has been customized by a user of the computer system, the computer-readable medium comprising:

computer-executable instructions carried by the computer-readable medium, the computer-executable instructions, when executed by the computer system, causing the computer system to perform the method, including the acts of:

providing a plurality of defined field types that can be associated with custom fields that can be included in the custom form;

B10

providing a plurality of defined behaviors that can be associated with the custom fields that can be included in the custom form;
receiving user input selecting:
 a selected field type from among the plurality of defined field types; and
 a selected behavior from among the plurality of defined behaviors;
creating a custom field in the custom form, the custom field having the selected field type and the selected behavior;
displaying the custom form, including the custom field, on a display device;
receiving data directed to the custom field of the displayed custom form;
and
in response to receiving the data directed to the custom field, a form control procedure of the computer system performing the selected behavior for the custom field.

Please add new claims 43-46 as follows:

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43. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the selected behavior modifies the display of a field other than the custom field.

44. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the method further includes the acts of:

61

re-invoking the form control procedure and passing to the form control procedure an indication of the custom field to which the data is directed; and

under control of the form control procedure, performing another behavior for the custom field.

45. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein displaying the custom form further includes, for each field of the form:

invoking the form control procedure and passing to the form control procedure an indication of the field which identifies the field; and

under control of the form control procedure, displaying the indicated field.

9/27/07 46. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, including, under control of the form control procedure, returning an indication whether to perform the selected behavior for the custom field, wherein performing the selected behavior for the custom field is conducted when the returned indication specifies that the selected behavior is to be performed.
